

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10682 251629Z  
ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 EURE-00 /004 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 204

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10682

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OGEN  
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL INFORMAL

1. AMERICAN ACTOR THEODORE BIKEL, WHO WAS THE SUBJECT OF YOUR 158377, LEFT MOSCOW JULY 24. HE SAW JOE PRESEL ON HIS ARRIVAL AND JUST BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. AT THE FIRST MEETING HE EXPLAINED HIS PURPOSE IN COMING TO THE SOVIET UNION, NOTED HIS INTEREST IN MEETING WITH REFUSENIKS BUT SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO BEHAVE IN A RESPONSIBLE AND NON-PROVOCATIVE WAY. HE APPEARS TO HAVE DONE SO AND SO FAR AS WE KNOW SAW ONLY ONE OR TWO OF THE MORE COMMONLY VISITED REFUSENIKS. HE GAVE NO PRESS CONFERENCE TO THE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS HERE DURING HIS STAY AND TOLD US THAT HE WOULD NOT DO SO ON HIS RETURN. HIS TIME HERE AND THE CONTACTS HE MADE HAVE MADE HIM EVEN MORE CONSCIOUS OF THE NECESSITY OF HELPING THE REFUSENIKS BUT HAVE ALSO REINFORCED HIS BELIEF THAT INDIRECT, QUIET DIPLOMACY IS FAR MORE LIKELY TO BE SUCCESSFUL THAN GRANDSTANDING.

2. WE DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO MOSCOW 10495, A PROPOSED SPLEX VISIT BY FOUR SOVIETS WHOSE AMERICAN SPONSORS ARE THE QUOTE TRADE UNIONISTS FOR DEMOCRACY AND ACTION END QUOTE.  
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IF THE DEPARTMENT TURNS THIS ONE DOWN, AS WE PRESUME IT WILL, COULD YOU SEE TO IT THAT WE GET TIMELY PRESS GUIDANCE?

3. REGARDING AFGHAN POPPY PRODUCTION, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED A RESPONSE TO MOSCOW 9444, WHICH ASKS GUIDANCE ON CROSSED MESSAGES. KABUL 4947, WHICH CONTINUES TO ASK FOR AN APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS, ASSESSES CHANCES OF GAINING SOVIET

COOPERATION AS "ADMITTEDLY SMALL." WE CONCUR, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE SOVIETS HAVE MAINTAINED THAT THE "INTERNATIONAL" NARCOTICS TRAFFIC PROBLEM IS BUT A SERIES OF "NATIONAL" ENFORCEMENT PROBLEMS. OUR DEMARCHE THUS WOULD ASK THE SOVIETS TO INTERVENE INTO WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS AFGHAN "INTERNAL AFFAIRS" AND WOULD STAND LITTLE CHANCE IN PRODUCING A CONSTRUCTIVE SOVIET DEMARCHE WITH THE AFGHANS. WE ARE RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE THE SOVIETS SOMETHING THEY COULD USE - ALBEIT COMPLETELY ILLOGICALLY - IN THEIR ANTI-PRC PROPAGANDA. WE WOULD ALSO HAVE TO ADDRESS THE NEVER-ANSWERED INVITATION FOR A DEA VISIT. COULD YOU GET US A RESPONSE ON THIS?

4. ECONOFF HAS GOTTEN FROM MALCOLM BROWNE A RUN-DOWN ON THE PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY SEVERAL PERSONS FROM INSTITUTES UNDER THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, INCLUDING FEDERENKO OF TSEMI. THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS NOT CONNECTED WITH THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE DECISION ON RETAIL TRADE. IT DEALT WITH SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH GENERALLY. NO DATA WERE GIVEN, BUT SOME OF THE IDEAS WERE INTERESTING. WE ARE CHECKING WITH OTHER CORRESPONDENTS WHOM BROWNE SAID WERE THERE, TOO, IN ORDER TO CONFIRM AND, HOPEFULLY, EXPAND ON HIS ACCOUNT. AT THIS POINT IT LOOKS LIKE AIRGRAM RATHER THAN TELEGRAM MATERIAL.  
TOON

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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